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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM

DECLASSIFIED October 24, 1980

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TO: The Files

FROM: ARA/CAR - Marsha Barnes

SUBJECT: Alleged fraudlent election scheme

On September 24 Ann Sabo, a registered foreign agent representing the JLP, phoned me and told me of a report she had of PNP plans for a fraudlent election. According to Ms. Sabo the PNP had ordered duplicate ballot boxes to be made in Cuba. The ballot boxes where to be pre-stuffed and for this reason Dudley Thompson's presence was required in Cuba. The pre-stuffed ballot boxes would be substituted for legal ballot boxes on election day and would produce the following electoral result: PNP 38, JLP 22. Ms. Sabo claimed that one Earl Spencer, telephone Area Code (212) 996-8124, had all of the pertinent details relating to this scheme. I merely listened and made no comment.

Some time later a free lance journalist by the name of Sharon C. Illoway who writes under the name of Jo Curtis phoned to inquire about the date of the elections and to ask whether I had heard the above report. I allowed that I had heard such a rumor and she asked whether I could confirm it. I asked rhetorically how she could expect me to confirm such a story. She then began inquiring whether I took the matter seriously and to whom I had reported it. She subsequently spoke with Kate Marshall (ARA/CHP) to ask what the State Department was doing about the report and to claim that it was a true report. As proof of its veracity she said that Mr. Johnson, a member of the election commission was known to have traveled to Jamaica to make the ballot box arrangements. I called Embassy Kingston and confirmed that there was no one by the name of Johnson on the election commission and this information was provided to Ms. Marshall. Ms. Illoway called once again on Friday, October 24 to ask how we were following up on the story and to whom I had reported the matter. I told her that I was not at liberty to discuss such things.

cc:Emb.Kingston - Mr. Forbes

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Drafted:ARA/CAR:MEBarnes:hm
10/24/80:ext. 26386

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